

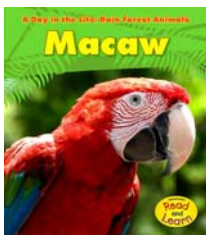
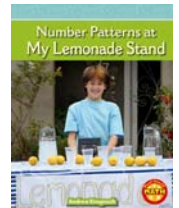


Volume 5 Issue 1
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The Starred Review

This is a monthly newsletter that will let you know the titles that our review committee felt were outstanding.

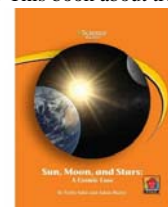
Number Patterns at My Lemonade Stand Andrew Einspruch Real World Math Capstone Press , 2010 978-1-4296-5187-5 Curriculum Connection: math, tables, number patterns, following directions Using a real life situation, setting up a lemonade stand, students will learn how to apply math skills to determine all aspects of this endeavor. Using the problem solving activities found throughout the book students will determine the number of supplies needed, cost and profit. These problem solving activities along with tables and charts will give students their first insight into running a business and show them how math skills learned at school can be put to good use. There is even a recipe for lemonade included. This is a good book for students in 2nd through 5th grade especially those that may question, "why do I need to know this?". With clear chapter headings and colorful pictures this book will be great for independent readers and is a great way to give students real world use for their math skills. Most kids will be able to relate to the idea of setting up a lemonade stand and this book could even motivate them to give it a try! The book also includes a glossary, index and internet site suggestions. There is also an answer key for all of the problem solving activities. Susan Irwin



Macaw Anita Ganeri A Day in the Life: Rain Forest Animals Heinemann, 2011 978-1-4329-4105-5 Curriculum Connection: Animals, Birds, Rain Forest Macaw will teach early readers what a day in the life of this bird would look like. They will learn what the rain forest animal looks like, where they live, what they eat, what they sound like, where they are born, and what they do at night. Throughout the book there are important words in bold letters that can be found in the book's glossary. Beautiful full color photographs and simple text will aid in comprehension, making this a great book for students in 1st through 3rd grades. There are clear chapter headings in the form of a question. The book touches on all of the important information that teachers are looking for when teaching students early research. The back of the book includes a "Body Map" with all of the Macaw's body parts clearly labeled, a picture glossary, and additional book

and website suggestions. Susan Irwin

Trees: Worlds Within Leaves by Emily Sohn and Karen J. Rothbardt ISBN# 978-1-59953-421-3 This book about trees begins by asking the reader a question, "Which tree is right for your tree house?" It goes on to explain what trees grow, what can hurt trees, careers related to trees and toward the end some important facts that will help answer the question at the beginning of the book. Readers will learn a great deal of information from any iScience series. The questions throughout insure that you not only read the information but use thinking well. There are three reading levels in this series with more quantitative and in depth information each level. There are detailed photographs on every page as a visual aid to the explanation of a topic. Because of the interactive nature of the series they will work nicely as read a-loud books, at the simpler levels. Where there is a question with a specific answer, you can find those at the back of Also included in each book are contents, index, glossary and further reading. Beyond the Puzzle additional activity. An amazing amount of information and activities are included in this highly recommended science series. Other books in the series are Fabric, Food and Nutrition, Levers and Pulley's, Water, Landforms and Sun, Moon and Stars. Denise Taggart



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Storm Runners by Roland Smith ISBN# 978-0-545-08175-7 Chase Masters, his father, and their friend Tomas are Storm Runners. After the death of his wife and daughter and being struck by lightning, John Masters has closed down on the past and lives a nomadic life, moving from place to place depending on the weather. Chase travels with his dad, fitting in school as best he can and trying to forge a bond with his emotionally distant father. In this first episode the Masters and Tomas are in Florida in anticipation of a big hurricane. On his way home from his first day of school Chase must go into survival mode to save himself and two new friends. The action is non stop but the book ends abruptly in the middle of the hurricane with a circus elephant about to give birth and a dangerous leopard on the loose. Readers will be anxious to find out what happens next in book two, **The Surge**. Denise Taggart



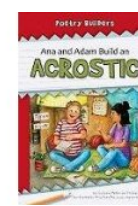
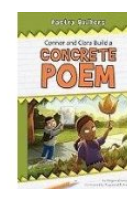
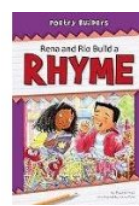
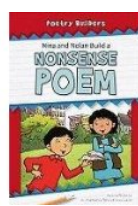
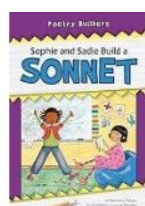
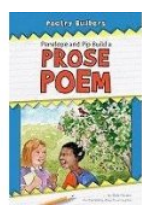
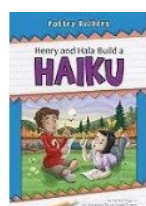
The Good the Bad and the Very Slimy--Book 3 R.L. Stine Publisher: Parachute Press—2005 Series: Rotten School Curriculum Connection: Chapter Book, Fiction. The Good the Bad and the Very Slimy is a funny early chapter book set in a boarding school called Rotten School. Bernie Bridges, a resident of Rotten House, is trying to win the heart of and a date to the school dance with April-May June. April-May June is planning on attending the school dance with a resident of Nyce House, Sherman Oaks. If Bernie can stop his trouble making ways, and get good grades for one week April-May June just might agree to go the dance with him. This feat is not as easy as it seems. In the tradition of R.L. Stine this book will attract reluctant readers in 2nd through 4th grades with its interesting topic and colorful cover. The book begins with Headmaster Upchuck's morning announcement, "For those of you that are here, I hope you will stop your insane jabbering and listen carefully. And Have a Rotten Day...". This humor is repeated throughout the book with, clever names, catchy phrases, slug races, and Bernie's hilarious attempts to "be good." The third book in the Rotten School series, this is a great book to get those reluctant readers going. Susan Irwin.



Solar System S.L. Hamilton ABDO Publishing---2011 Xtreme Space 978-1-61714-740-1 Science, Space, Planets, Solar System Solar System provides a brief glance of the Solar System beginning with the Sun and moving in order all the way out to the Dwarf Planets. Two pages that include text, pictures, and one "Xtreme Fact" are used to describe each planet. This is an excellent choice for students in 1st through 4th grade that are interested in learning basic facts about our solar system. With sentence structure ranging from simple to complex, this is a good lower to middle grade book for comprehension. With colorful pictures and large subject headings this is easy to follow and flows well. This is a very sound overview of the solar system. Susan Irwin.

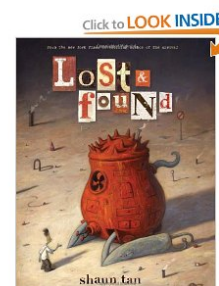


Henry and Hala Build a Haiku Nadia Higgins 2011 Norwood House Press Poetry Builders 978-1-59953-435-0 Language Arts-Poetry. A set of 8 books that explain how to write various types of poetry through fictional stories and many examples. This is definitely a set of books you want in your collection, it can be used with every grade level. Each book is a short story (32 pgs with lots of pictures) where the characters discuss and write poems, giving the reader good examples and poetry vocabulary. The books end with a writing activities and websites. Books in this series include- Ana and Adam Build an Acrostic, Sophie and Sadie Build a Sonnet, Connor and Clara Build a Concrete Poem, Luke and Leo Build a Limerick, Nina and Nolan Build a Nonsense Poem, Penelope and Pip Build a Prose Poem, Rena and Rio Build a Rhyme. I recommend this series. Julianna Johnson

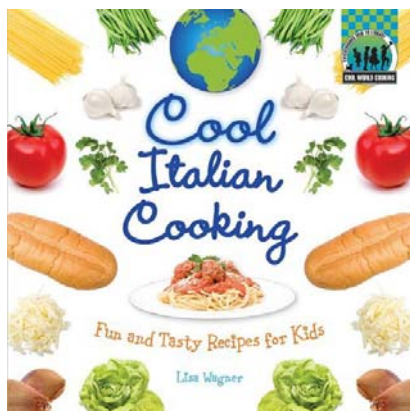
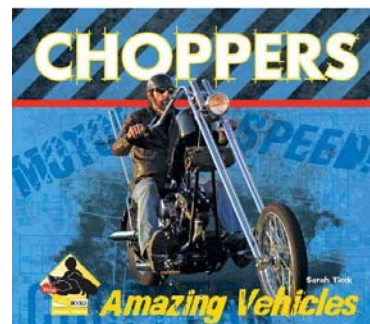


Mudkin Stephen Gammell 2011 Carolrhoda Books 978-0-7613-5790-2 Picture Book A little girl goes outside after the rain to rein over her toys as queen. When she meets a mud creature who asks her to be queen of his people. She does until the rain comes again and her rein ends. A charming book about mud and imagination. Stephen Gammell is my favorite illustrator and he doesn't disappoint in this new book. The illustrations are vibrant and fantastical. The story celebrates to treasured things from childhood: mud and imagination. I love how when the mudkin is "speaking" it is just some blotches and smears of mud. My only critique of the book is that I find many students are uncomfortable with nakedness in illustrations. I wish the artist had made rear of the mudkin more vague. Vanessa Hoffman

Lost & Found Shaun Tan Omnibus ed. 2011 Arthur A Levine Books 978-0-545-22924-1 Language Arts A beautiful collection of three stories with absolutely amazing artwork. The jacket sums up the stories the best with "A girl finds a bright spot in a dark world. A boy leads a strange, lost creature home. A group of peaceful creatures cedes their home to hostile invaders." The artwork in this work is breathtaking and the stories are simple and open to interpretation. The artwork is so overwhelming in this book that it is natural to do a "picture" walk before reading the text. The text could seem a bit dark, but is so open it would be a fabulous book to use with classes on critical thinking. I highly recommend this book for school libraries. Vanessa Hoffman



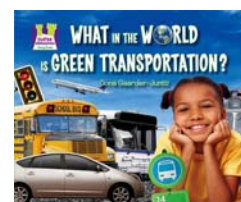
Choppers Sarah Tieck 2011 978-1-61714-695-4 Amazing Vehicles Science - changes in speed or direction of motion Reading - Non Fiction, high interest Book describes and explains Chopper motorcycles This book is awesome. Kids will love the detailed photographs. Teachers will love the appropriate reading level for students. The text is descriptive yet uses words that encourage independent reading. Non fiction elements are used throughout the book. Clair Shadow



Cool Italian Cooking Lisa Wagner 2011 978-1-61714-661-9 Cool Cooking Reading Non Fiction, following directions Science - change of matter, heat Geography - food from regions Students are very interested in cooking books. These books focus on a region and give culture and geographic information. The photos are informative. Great high interest series. Claire Shadow

What in the World is a Green Garden by Oona Gaarder-Juntti ISBN #978-1-61613-1883

In the Going Green Series the books are easy to read and offer many simple yet helpful tips for children on how to be more conscientious about our daily habits. Without being overly doom and gloom this series looks at how our lifestyles are having an effect on our environment and simple choices we can make to improve the state of our planet. Children will be able to read these books and put in to action the suggestions on how to live greener and help the environment. The generous use of photographs adds plenty of interest and the page lay out includes minimal text and interesting fact boxes. Each book begins with a description of what it means to be green. There is a Green Pledge at the end of each book that is very realistic for children and also a glossary of terms. This series covers a wide range of curriculum material, from going green with gardens, energy and transportation etc. Other title reviewed in this series: What in the World is Green Transportation. Denise Taggart.



World War II Fighting For Freedom by Peter Chrisp ISBN #978-0-545-24984-3

The use of primary source documents adds interest and credibility to this comprehensive look at World War II. Many aspects of war are introduced, from day to day life to many important battles. Each double page spread is marked with a date and headline clearly identifying what is covered in each particular section. Loaded with photographs accompanied by detailed paragraphs which provide the reader with a thorough view of what it was like between the years of 1939-1945 for those countries involved in the war against Nazi Germany, young history buffs will be fully engaged by this book as there is much to learn here. A glossary and index are included. Denise Taggart

